

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05227 202101Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 IO-13 HA-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01
/116 W

-----064603 202108Z /75

P 201629Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9286
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05227

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MILI, IT, CU, ET, SO
SUBJECT: ITALIAN/CUBAN EXCHANGES ON HORN

REF: HAVANA 715

1. EMBASSY HAS GATHERED FROM BOTH ITALIAN AMBASSADOR
AND ITALIAN EMBASSY POL COUNSELOR (PROTECT BOTH)
FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON RECENT ITALIAN-CUBAN CONTACTS
WITH REGARD TO SITUATION IN THE HORN.

--THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME TOLD ITALIAN FONMIN
FORLANI ON MARCH 9 THAT AS THE SOMALI FORCES WITHDRAW
ACROSS THE BORDER A NEW SITUATION WILL DEVELOP AND THAT
THIS WILL HAVE A BEARING ON THE CUBAN ATTITUDE AND
ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. HE ALSO SAID THAT CUBANS WOULD
USE THEIR INFLUENCE "SUCH AS IT WAS" TO DISCOURAGE
ETHIOPIANS FROM CROSSING SOMALI BORDER. THE CUBAN
AMBASSADOR DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE OGADEN CON-
FLICT ("A GROSS AGGRESSION") AND ETHIOPIA'S "INTERNAL
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05227 202101Z

STRUGGLE" WITH THE ERITREAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVE-
MENT. THUS THE CUBAN SAW NO PURELY MILITARY SOLUTION
TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM BUT RATHER A POLITICAL SOLUTION
WHICH WOULD HARMONIZE THE INTERESTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN
REVOLUTIONARY STATE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ERITREAN
REVOLUTION;

--THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN HAVANA REPORTED THAT IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, CUBAN V.P. RODRIGUEZ HAD MADE A SIMILAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PROBLEM OF THE OGADEN AND THE PROBLEM OF ERITREA. RODRIGUEZ SPOKE OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN ERITREA "WITHOUT OUTSIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE";

--ON MARCH 14 THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN HAVANA WAS INSTRUCTED TO TELL THE CUBANS (THE LEVEL IS NOT KNOWN) THAT: (A) CONCERN HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES, ABOUT THE MASSIVE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA; (B) IN LIGHT OF RECENT CUBAN REASSURANCES TO THE ITALIANS (AS DESCRIBED ABOVE), ITALY EXPECTS THAT AS A RESULT OF THE SOMALI DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OGADEN, THE CUBANS WILL WORK TOWARD A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ETHIOPIA'S PROBLEMS AND THAT CUBAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ARMED ACTION BY THE ETHIOPIANS MAY BE PHASED OUT BOTH IN THE OGADEN AND IN ERITREA. TOON

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Message Attributes

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